



State of New Jersey
HIGHER EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2012

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**Lockheed Martin Sponsors First Stevens Institute *WaterBotics*®
Summer Camp, Training Future Engineers and Scientists**

Lockheed Martin's gift of \$10,000 enabled the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology to conduct two very successful one-week camps that introduced 48 girls and boys, ages 9 through 14, to *WaterBotics*®, an innovative underwater robotics program. The donation enabled CIESE to staff the camps with experienced K-12 science and engineering educators and assistants. It also provided the necessary equipment for the campers to use and partial financial support to deserving students who could not otherwise afford the camp's \$475 tuition.

"This program illustrates the value of business and higher education partnerships to create a much-needed pipeline of young engineers and scientists," said Rochelle Hendricks, Secretary of Higher Education.

The camps were held in the state-of-the-art facilities of the Babbio Center at Stevens. Students were challenged to design, build, program, test, and redesign underwater robots made of LEGOs and other components. Working in teams, campers progressed through a series of increasingly sophisticated "missions" that culminated with a final challenge that integrated learning from the prior challenges. The students also participated in tours of the Davidson Lab at Stevens where they saw engineers working with underwater robots.

"We are very grateful to Lockheed Martin for helping us launch the first *WaterBotics*® camps at Stevens this summer. The girls and boys who attended these camps experienced hands-on engineering activities in an exciting environment while expanding their understanding of the variety of engineering careers and also their understanding of important science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts," said Mercedes McKay, Deputy Director of CIESE.

WaterBotics® was developed by CIESE and originally implemented in New Jersey classrooms. The program has expanded to Ohio, Illinois, Texas, and Kentucky. It is part of a \$2.5 million National Science Foundation program to provide hands-on experiences for middle and high school age youth in engineering design, information technology tools and science concepts, and to increase awareness and interest in engineering and IT careers.

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